

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 048456

62

ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OES-03 FEA-01 L-03 INT-05 EPA-01 CEQ-01

SSO-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 OFA-01

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 INR-07 IO-11 NSF-01 NSC-05

NSAE-00 PM-04 SS-15 SP-02 ERDA-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01

FPC-01 H-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 /101 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/CAN:LFJANOWSKI:RM

APPROVED BY EUR:RDVINE

OES:HSPIELMAN (SUBS)

FEA:EBAUER (DRAFT)

L:MFELDMAN (DRAFT)

EUR/CAN:JHROUSE

INTERIOR:JDOREMUS (DRAFT)

EPA:FGREEN (DRAFT)

CEQ:JBERTRAND (DRAFT)

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

FEA, INTERIOR, CEQ, EPA

----- 050459

O 280108Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 048456

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SENV, CA

SUBJECT: BEAUFORT SEA

REF: OTTAWA 764

1. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DELIVER FOLLOWING NOTE TO
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 048456

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS SOONEST:

"THE EMBASSY OF THE US PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF FEBRUARY 25, THE EMBASSY'S NOTE OF FEBRUARY 14, AND THE DEPARTMENT'S NOTE OF JANUARY 29 WITH RESPECT TO PROPOSED DRILLING FOR OIL IN THE OPEN WATERS OF THE BEAUFORT SEA.

"THE USG NOTES THE VIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THAT DECISIONS WITH RESPECT TO DRILLING IN THE BEAUFORT SEA MUST BE TAKEN BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE US WELCOMES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR AN EARLY MEETING OF SENIOR OFFICIALS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS OF OFFSHORE DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN ARCTIC WATERS. OF THE DATES SUGGESTED FOR SUCH A MEETING, THE US WOULD PREFER MARCH 3.

"THE USG WISHES TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT DOES NOT CONSIDER THE MARCH 3 MEETING AS SATISFYING OUR REQUEST FOR PRIOR CONSULTATIONS ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF EXPLORATORY DRILLING FOR OIL AND GAS IN THE OPEN WATERS OF THE BEAUFORT SEA. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE US NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH CANADIAN AUTHORITIES HAVE ADVISED THAT APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE FOR EXPLORATORY OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE BEAUFORT SEA WAS GRANTED IN 1973, THE USG WAS NOT INFORMED OF THAT DECISION OR ITS TRANSFRONTIER IMPLICATIONS UNTIL JANUARY 29, 1976. THE GOC WILL APPRECIATE THAT THE USG HAS NEITHER RECEIVED NOR HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE FULL CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT, AND THAT LACK OF INFORMATION AND SUFFICIENT TIME TO ASSESS THAT INFORMATION PRECLUDES THE POSSIBILITY OF A DETAILED TECHNICAL EXCHANGE AT THE MARCH 3 MEETING. IN VIEW OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THE US WISHES TO REITERATE ITS POSITION THAT THE GOC NOT CONSIDER GRANTING AUTHORIZATION FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE OPEN WATERS OF THE BEAUFORT SEA UNTIL FULL CONSULTATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AFTER THE USG HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE FULL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 048456

"THE EMBASSY OF THE US TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY TO AGAIN CONVEY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS THE ASSURANCES OF ITS HIGHEST CONSIDERATION."

2. FYI: INTERAGENCY MEETING HELD FEBRUARY 26 ASCERTAINED THAT US OIL AND GAS EXPLORATORY PROGRAMS IN THE BEAUFORT AND ELSEWHERE POSE EXTREMELY LIMITED THREAT TO CANADIAN ENVIRONMENT. PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL

ASSESSMENT, ON OTHER HAND, INDICATES THAT STATISTICS USED TO PREDICT POSSIBILITY OF BLOWOUT MAY NOT BE VALID FOR BEAUFORT SEA ENVIRONMENT AND THAT AMOUNT OF OIL THAT COULD BE RELEASED BY A BLOWOUT MIGHT BE IN MAGNITUDE OF 5,000 BARRELS PER DAY AS OPPOSED TO 1,500 BARRELS PER DAY. END FYI.

3. IN DELIVERING NOTE YOU SHOULD ADVISE GOC THAT US DELEGATION WILL CONSIST OF:

STATE - DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY VINE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HERTER, ASSISTANT LEGAL ADVISOR OXMAN, EUR/CAN LOUIS JANOWSKI.

EPA - ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR FITZHUGH GREEN, THOMAS CHARLTON.

INTERIOR - ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DOREMUS, PIERCE

ELLIOT, DONALD TRUESDALE.

4. REQUEST HOTEL RESERVATIONS BE MADE FOR PARTY AT PARK LANE HOTEL WITH EXCEPTION OF JANOWSKI WHO HAS MADE OTHER ARRANGEMENTS . RESERVATIONS FOR GREEN, CHARLTON, DOREMUS, ELLIOT, TRUESDALE, HERTER, OXMAN SHOULD BE FOR NIGHT OF MARCH 2; RESERVATIONS FOR VINE SHOULD BE FOR NIGHTS OF MARCH 2-3. INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OFFSHORE DRILLING, DIPLOMATIC NOTES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE048456
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: LFJANOWSKI:RM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760075-0549
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976022/aaaaabcm.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OTTAWA 764
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <07 JUL 2004 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEAUFORT SEA
TAGS: SENV, CA, US
To: OTTAWA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006